



VIRGIL STUART
CHIEF OF POLICE

City of Saint Augustine



SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
28 May 1965

Hon. Jesse E. Curry,
Chief of Police
City of Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Dear Chief Curry:

Our City Officials have requested me to ask for some information through your department. One our local citizens, Mr. Leon H. Hough, has reportedly purchased the ambulance used to haul Lee Harvey Oswald from your headquarters to the hospital after being shot. In addition Mr. Hough has reportedly purchased the furniture from the bedroom of the rooming house occupied by Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy in your city.

Mr. Hough is asking the City of St. Augustine Florida to issue a permit and occupational license to operate a museum to display the above listed items. Would you please have one of your men conduct an investigation to ascertain if the above listed items were actually sold to Mr. Hough, and, if they are authentic? Our City Officials are not in favor of issuing a permit for this museum, probably due to the fact that the offense and related items have nothing to do with the City of St. Augustine.

Thanking you for your cooperation in the above and assuring you of my willingness to reciprocate at all times, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Virgil Stuart
Virgil Stuart,
Chief of Police

VS/w



INT 2965-678

8 June 1965

Captain W.P. Gannaway
Special Service Bureau
Dallas Police Department

Thru:
Lieutenant Jack Revill
Criminal Intelligence Section
Special Service Bureau
Dallas Police Department

SUBJECT: Criminal Intelligence (6)
LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Sir:

Pursuant to the instructions of Lieutenant Jack Revill an investigation was conducted with the following results.

On June 2, 1965, a letter was received from Chief of Police Virgil Stuart, St. Augustine Florida Police Department, asking for verification that one LEON H. HOUGH, a St. Augustine resident, had purchased the ambulance used to take SUBJECT to Parkland Memorial Hospital on November 24, 1963, after he was shot, and also purchased some furniture from a bedroom occupied by SUBJECT prior to the assassination. The correspondence further stated that HOUGH had applied to the city of St. Augustine for a permit and occupational license to operate a museum to display the above items.

The undersigned officer contacted Mrs. MARY BLEDSOE, 621 NORTH MARSHALL AVENUE, MN 2-1985, a former landlady of SUBJECT. Mrs. BLEDSOE stated that SUBJECT rented a bedroom in her home from October 5 thru 9, 1963. Mrs. BLEDSOE further stated that HOUGH had contacted her by letter regarding purchasing the furniture. She stated that on November 1, 1964, HOUGH and a man from FRIENDLY CHEVROLET COMPANY, 5601 LEBRON AVENUE, came to see her and she traded the furniture to HOUGH in return for having her front porch fixed.

Mrs. A.C. JOHNSON, 1026 NORTH HICKLEY AVENUE, another former landlady of SUBJECT, was also contacted. She stated that she had received a letter from HOUGH, dated October 16, 1964. In the letter, HOUGH stated that he wanted to buy the furniture from the bedroom that SUBJECT had occupied. Mrs. JOHNSON stated that she refused to sell the furniture to HOUGH.



Hoover Criticizes Oswald Handling

By BOB HOLLINGSWORTH

White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told a congressional committee that Lee Harvey Oswald, claiming that President Kennedy's assassin would never have been slain in Dallas had he been under the control of federal officers.

Hoover used the Oswald incident to back up a plea to Congress to make assaults upon the President a federal crime.

"If the assassination of President Kennedy had been a federal violation, jurisdiction would have been under the Secret Service or the FBI and the episode in Dallas following the assassination would never have occurred," Hoover said.

CLOSED MEETING

The "episode" was the murder of Oswald by night club owner Jack Ruby in the police department basement two days later.

Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry had no comment on the FBI chief's remarks.

The FBI chief's testimony was before a House appropriations subcommittee's closed meeting last March 4. It was made public by the committee late Monday.

In his testimony, Hoover also repeated a claim made last year to the Warren Commission that he had considered Oswald a "thoroughly safe risk" because of a favorable report from the State Department.

Hoover's comments were volunteered to the committee rather than elicited by questioning.

The FBI director appeared before the panel headed by Rep. John Rooney of New York to substantiate a request for budget funds for the coming fiscal year and used the assassination in Dallas as one instance of an ever-increasing FBI work load.

DEMANDS GREAT

"Tremendous demands were placed on our manpower as a result of the investigation regarding the assassination of President Kennedy and the subsequent mur-

der of Lee Harvey Oswald," Hoover said.

He said the FBI moved 80 agents into Dallas immediately and eventually conducted "some 25,000 interviews" before the probe was completed.

"As an aftermath of the assassination, we assisted the Secret Service in the protection of the President. We furnished a total of 534 special agents on 74 occasions," Hoover testified.

The FBI director gave his description of Oswald as a thoroughly safe risk although no member of the committee raised the issue.

Hoover's plea for new legislation covering assaults upon the President went unexplained since the Appropriation Committee he appeared before is not authorized to write substantive legislation. It can only appropriate funds for purposes authorized by other congressional committees.

NOT FEDERAL OFFENSE

The FBI director said that if Congress writes such a law, it should guard against divided investigative jurisdiction and empower either the FBI or the Secret Service—but not both—to handle the matter.

Physical attacks upon a President—including assassination—do not now constitute federal offenses. Thus the assassination of President Kennedy was murder under Texas state criminal statutes and responsibility rested with local officers.

Hoover had earlier criticized Dallas authorities' handling of the incident in testimony before the Warren Commission.

The attached article was taken from the DALLAS TIMES HERALD, dated 17 May, 1965

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INITIALS C

JERRY M. O'NEAL, O'NEAL FUNERAL HOME, 3206 OAK LAWN AVENUE, stated that the ambulance in question is a 1962 Ford, Station Wagon, color white, bearing either serial number; 2D71W113779 or 2D71W113780. O'NEAL further stated that the above vehicles were traded in on two new 1964 Chevrolet Station Wagons to FRIENDLY CHEVROLET, 5601 LEMON AVENUE.

LEE FOWLER, salesman at FRIENDLY CHEVROLET, stated that his company bought the ambulance February 25, 1964, and sold it to one LEE SELLERS (a car dealer) in Ft. Worth, Texas, who in turn sold it to an unknown Austin, Texas car dealer, who sold it to an individual in Austin, Texas, who later sold it to HOUGH. FOWLER stated that HOUGH had come to Dallas and viewed television news film of the shooting of SUBJECT, which included pictures of the ambulance, so that he could obtain the license number.

A copy of the letter received from Chief Stuart of the St. Augustine Florida Police Department is attached to this report as enclosure 1.

A copy of the letter received by Mrs. A.C. JOHNSON from LEON H. HOUGH is attached to this report as enclosure 2.

Respectfully submitted,

R. W. Westphal
R.W. Westphal, Detective
Criminal Intelligence Section



INT. 2965-67A

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ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

October 16, 1964

Mr. A. C. Johnson
1026 North Beckley Avenue
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing you in regard to a telephone conversation with my associate, Mr. Raymond Beaver, who is in Dallas trying to help me put together a display of items of Lee H. Oswald.

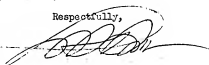
This sort of museum is not to glorify nor degrade, but to have a place of authentic items to make it interesting. I will display these items always in good taste. There will be different items of reading material where a person can fully understand how this catastrophe happened.

Now, Mr. Johnson, it is my understanding that you own the house on Beckley where Oswald rented a room. I would like to purchase the furnishings of this room, along with a letter from you, I think would make a very interesting display. I will replace the furnishings in this room with new furniture, in exchange for this furniture, a picture and a letter from you.

I operate a fuel business here in St. Augustine. I am an everyday working man, trying to put these items together as reasonable as I can, because I am not able to do it otherwise.

If you consider my offer, please drop me a line of the cost, and I will forward you the check. Thank you, I remain,

Respectfully,



L. H. Hough

LHH:dp



ENCLOSURE 2 INT 3965-670